Nova Scotia
Department of Natural Resources
BUSINESS PLAN
2001-2002

Posted April 3rd, 2001.

For further information contact:
Peter Woolaver, Planning Secretariat, NSDNR
pdwoolav@gov.ns.ca

NOVA SCOTIA
Natural Resources

103-02704/

Table of Contents

1.0 Mission

2.0 Goals

3.0 Core Businesses

4.0 Priorities

- 4.1 Achieve Sound Natural Resources Stewardship
- 4.2 Conserve the Diversity of Nova Scotia's Natural Environment
- 4.3 Support Nova Scotia's Economy through the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
- 4.4 Improve the Quality of Life in Nova Scotia
- 4.5 Manage the Department's Financial, Physical, Human, and Information Resources Effectively and Efficiently

5.0 Budget Context

6.0 Outcomes and Outcome Measures

7.0 Highlights from Human Resources

8.0 Highlights from Information Technology

9.0 Highlights from Financial Services

Attachment A - Outcome Measures

1.0 Mission

The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is "to build a better future for Nova Scotians through responsible natural resources management".

2.0 Goals

The Department has identified five broad goals. These are:

- achieve sound natural resources stewardship;
- conserve the diversity of Nova Scotia's natural environment;
- support Nova Scotia's economy through the sustainable development of natural resources;
- improve the quality of life in Nova Scotia; and
- manage the Department's financial, physical, human, and information resources effectively and efficiently.

The Department's goals relate to three of the government's themes in particular. These are:

- to provide responsible, accountable governance;
- to create conditions that help the economy grow; and
- to foster an environment that allows and encourages Nova Scotians to work, live, raise families, and stay in Nova Scotia.

These broad government themes are supported by work undertaken by the Department that contributes to the provincial economy through the development of natural resources, while ensuring that all uses are sustainable and responsibly managed so that natural resources will be available for future generations of Nova Scotians.

Natural resources provide significant social, cultural, environmental, and economic benefits to Nova Scotians. The Department's aim is to maintain an appropriate balance, so that resource use continues to provide significant contributions to the province, while being carried out in a socially responsible and sustainable manner.

Five broad principles influence the Department's operations. These are: providing quality service to clients, fairness to all regions of the province, providing good value for the money spent on services provided by the Department, being accountable for our expenditures, and where we can, contributing to the government's Campaign for Fairness" so that Nova Scotians are able to achieve fiscal fairness as part of the Canadian federation.

3.0 Core Businesses

Each of the Department's activities can be categorized in one of the following twelve core businesses:

- private land forest management;
- Crown land resources management;
- land services;
- forest protection;
- forestry;
- minerals and energy;
- wildlife management;
- enforcement;
- fleet management;
- parks and recreation;
- integrated mobile radio system; and
- central services

A brief description of the major activities that make up each of these core businesses is provided below.

- Private Land Forest Management

  Private Land Forest Management provides support for forest management activities on private lands. This includes funding for silvicultural activities, technical and professional assistance to private landowners on silviculture and other aspects of forest management planning, support for construction of forest access roads, and monitoring for compliance with Acts and regulations related to forest harvesting and forest management.

- Crown Land Resources Management

  Crown Land Resources Management includes approving, monitoring and enforcing authorized activities on Crown lands in accordance with the Provincial Acts, Regulations, guidelines, policy and any long term land use plans and strategies. Funds are provided to meet contractual commitments for silviculture to enhance forest productivity and to maintain woodlands' access road's infrastructure.

  Crown Land Resources Management also manages requests for the use of timber, peat land and aggregate resources, monitors the conduct of general recreational activities on Crown land, makes recommendations on proposed sales, trades or acquisitions of Crown lands and evaluates the construction of structures on Crown lands. Authorizations are recommended for Ministerial approval as appropriate.

- Land Services

  Land Services encompasses the acquisition, leasing and disposal of interests in Crown lands, co-ordination of government surveying requirements, carrying out Crown lands boundary line maintenance, maintenance of provincial Crown lands records and the Crown lands GIS cadastral database. In addition, it provides land related services to other departments such as land administration and designations, and works in partnership with non-government conservation oriented organizations to secure ecologically significant lands.

- Forest Protection

  Forest Protection develops and operates programs designed to protect Nova Scotia forests from fire, insects and disease. Effective coordination of the Department's resources, with the assistance of volunteer fire departments throughout the province, minimizes fire size and forest damage. The Department also monitors insect infestation levels for several species of insects as part of an integrated pest management program. The health of our forests depends on adequate levels of protection.

- Forestry

  Forestry funds forest management research, the development of strategies for sustainable forests, maintenance of the provincial forest inventory, the production of data concerning forest resources and round wood scaling, and the coordination of forestry extension programs and support for industry development. It also includes operational funding for the Strathlorne Forest Nursery and the Debert Tree Breeding Centre.

- Minerals and Energy

  Minerals and Energy implements policies and programs dealing with exploration, development, management, and utilization of energy and mineral resources. It funds geological studies that promote an understanding of provincial geology, document the province's mineral endowment, define the potential for new mineral resources, and provide needed information for environmental, land use, and other purposes. It also administers mineral royalties and operates a tenure system for mineral rights. On the energy side, it develops policy and strategies for downstream energy use, and

takes a leadership role, with Department of Environment and Labour, in the Province's participation in the National Climate Change process. It also leads the development of the provincial climate change strategy and a revised provincial energy strategy, and operates programs to implement the provincial climate change strategy and to encourage demand side energy conservation and efficiency.

- Wildlife Management

  Wildlife Management includes research, development and delivery of programs, policies, and legislation for the management and conservation of the province's wildlife resources and their habitats, including endangered species initiatives. Inventories of wildlife populations and their habitat are conducted in order to collect the scientific information required for sound decision making. Wildlife Management also includes the operation of the provincial wildlife park in Shubenacadie.

- Enforcement

  Enforcement supports the ongoing development, coordination and operation of a departmental resource law enforcement and compliance program which also provides enforcement services to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the protected areas program within the Department of Environment and Labour, and the Canadian Wildlife Service.

- Fleet Management

  Fleet Management funds the maintenance and replacement of a fleet of approximately 700 highway and other specialized vehicles (i.e., fire trucks, enforcement vehicles), as well the operation, maintenance and replacement of a small fleet of five helicopters. The road vehicles are heavily used in every aspect of the Department's program delivery, from fire suppression, enforcement, personal transport to heavy equipment. The helicopters are used for forest fire detection and suppression, ground search and rescue, natural resource management, and transportation.

- Parks and Recreation

  Parks and Recreation supports the planning, design, development, and operation of over 120 camping and day-use parks, in addition to trails and other outdoor recreational opportunities and facilities on Crown land and through partnerships with community groups on private lands. Parks programs and services include life saving, Parks are for People, Campground Hosts, concessions, and a reservation system. Parks and Recreation also provides quality recreational experiences to Nova Scotians, as well as visitors to the province, while ensuring environmental, heritage and resource protection.

- Integrated Mobile Radio System

  The Integrated Mobile Radio System (IMRS) funded the operation of a mobile radio system that provided seven days a week, 24 hours a day communications for various government departments and agencies, fire departments and the RCMP. The system also provided backup to the Emergency Health System, hospitals, and ambulances. Various other affiliated users (e.g., Nova Scotia Power Inc, Stora, Bowaters) also used the system.

  A new digital province wide Trunked Mobile Radio System (TMRS) that is part of the Integrated Wide Area Network (IWAN) initiative began operations during the summer of 2000. However it is necessary to continue to operate the existing IMRS concurrently with the TMRS because a number of IMRS users have not yet converted to the new system and a volunteer solution is still pending.

- Central Services

Central Services provides for central administrative services including human resources, information technology, financial, communications, legal, business planning and policy coordination, asset management, risk management, records management, telecommunications, insurance, business equipment leases, head office reception desk, cartography, website development and support, mail, library, Central Registry, and central leadership and direction through the Office of the Minister and Deputy Minister.

The Department is the host department for the Resources Corporate Services Unit. Human resources, information technology, and financial management services are provided to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Department of Environment and Labour, the Petroleum Directorate, and the Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) (HR services are also provided to NSAC Research).

4.0 Priorities

The following priorities have been identified for the Department of Natural Resources. Priorities are grouped according to the goal they most directly support.

4.1 Achieve Sound Natural Resources Stewardship

- Using the integrated resource management planning process, complete the strategic land use plans and initiate development of long range management plans for blocks of Crown land.
- Establish an Interdepartmental Advisory Committee and local Advisory Committees to provide input for developing long range management plans for Crown land.
- Work with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to establish a Memorandum of Understanding on respective responsibilities and responses in protecting Nova Scotia's forest environment from risk of pest introductions.
- Work with Natural Resources Canada, other federal and provincial departments, and other coastal provinces towards the development of a regulatory regime for the recovery of sea floor mineral resources in the Nova Scotia offshore.
- Implement the recently completed Nova Scotia Climate Change Strategy and continue the development of a provincial energy strategy to guide decisions and actions that will affect the future production and use of energy in the province.
- Continue to participate with the Federal Government and other provinces in implementing the National Climate Change Action Plan, which will guide Canada's response to this important national and international issue.
- Work with municipalities, community groups, and rural development authorities to ensure that relevant geoscientific information is available and that mineral resource information is incorporated in land and resource use decision making.
- Provide an arms-length mechanism to ensure the proper utilization of money collected for the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Fund, by establishing a Board of Directors and a process for project application and approval.
- Implement new wildlife habitat protection regulations under the Forests Act. These regulations include measures to protect riparian zones and require that cavity trees and coarse woody debris be left on harvested lands.

- Release the updated Forest/Wildlife Guidelines document to provide forest managers with standards and guidelines for additional voluntary protection and enhancement of forest wildlife habitat. The revised document will reflect both what has been learned and relevant forest management principles which have developed since they were first released in 1989. Once completed, the document will become a component of the Code of Forest Practice.

- Continue to provide resource protection through an efficient and cost effective enforcement program that enforces the existing provincial statutes and contributes to sustainable resource utilization.

- Continue to provide resource protection from fires, insects, and diseases, in partnership with the private sector, other government departments, and volunteer organizations.

- Provide cost effective air service, which will contribute to enhanced resource protection, public safety and allow for the improved delivery of Department programs.

4.2 Conserve the Diversity of Nova Scotia's Natural Environment

- Undertake a review of the Beaches Act.

- Undertake a review of the Conservation Easement Act and propose amendments to facilitate private land stewardship through conservation easements.

- Designate at least one natural environment provincial park under the Parks Act from among existing park reserves or undesignated operational properties.

- Continue programs, policies and legislation for the implementation of the National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk and the Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act. This will be done in part by listing species, initiating recovery plans and engaging in recovery actions.

- Release the first provincial and national report on the General Status of Wildlife. These reports present important new information on hundreds of species of wild plants and animals that will improve conservation and resource use planning.

- Support the Department of Environment and Labour's (DOEL) Protected Areas Program through the provision of services in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department and DOEL.

- Renew our engagement in national and provincial initiatives supporting the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy in preparation for the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Biodiversity.

- Continue to participate in the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture, the Black Duck Joint Venture and the Sea Duck Joint Venture as part of Nova Scotia's commitment to wetland and waterfowl conservation under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

- Maintain a geo-referenced database of important wildlife species and habitats which can help ensure that development activities do not negatively affect critical wildlife areas and which can also be used to support the Department's IRM work.

4.3 Support Nova Scotia's Economy through the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

- Implement multi-disciplinary geoscience programs and undertake targeted promotion of the province's mineral resources to increase the level of exploration and work cooperatively with industry, other departments and community development groups to encourage appropriate development opportunities.

- Continue implementing the action plan for the Province's mineral policy to ensure that the Department's programs are focussed on supporting and encouraging economic development related to the use of our geological resources.

- Encourage and support appropriate private sector development of natural resources on and under Crown lands while ensuring it is done in a responsible and environmentally sound manner that preserves the ecological integrity, recreational opportunities and sustainable resource use. This includes forest harvesting and silviculture, mining and mineral development, development of peatland and aggregate resources, general recreational activities, and the sale, trade or acquisition of Crown lands.

- Work with officials from the Cape Breton Development Corporation (CBDC), potential private sector purchasers of CBDC assets, the federal government and other provincial departments to encourage the continuation of coal mining in Cape Breton as feasible, and to provide for satisfactory remediation of lands affected by coal mining within the boundary of the CBDC.

- Complete the Crown lands stumpage rate and the timber tenure system review and implement changes to stumpage rates and timber license's policies.

- Provide assistance to resource industries through efforts to promote NS resources, identify value added opportunities and provide technical support to small businesses including woodlot owners, logging services, sawmills, trappers, junior exploration companies and prospectors.

- Enhance the computer system which supports the Department's registry of wood buyers by adding functionality to support new wood acquisition plan reporting requirements.

- Enhance the computer system which supports the sampling of the permanent sample plots carried out by the forestry staff from the Department's Renewable Resources Branch.

- Work with the private sector to encourage the development of energy efficiency and alternative energy service providers, as part of the Nova Scotia Climate Change Strategy implementation.

- Work cooperatively with community based groups to upgrade facilities in Provincial Parks to support tourism and community economic development.

- Provide land and expertise to support the development of Nova Scotia as a premier coastal and hiking trail destination.

- Review the Trails Act and recommend changes to facilitate trail development by community based trail organizations.

- Monitor and regulate harvested wildlife populations to ensure conservation and sustainable use while providing an optimum level of opportunity for Nova Scotians and visitors.

- Proceed with the design and implementation of a Code of Forest Practices to address the many forest management issues and provincial goals which relate to the long term vitality and productivity of our provincial forests.

- Implement phase II of the Forest Sustainability Regulations which came into force in April 2000. In 2001, these regulations will cover those registered buyers who acquire more than 5,000 m^3 (approximately 2,270 cords or 885 Mfbm) from private and/or industrial lands in Nova Scotia.

- Continue to provide technical advice to the Christmas tree industry with two dedicated Christmas tree specialists, aided by regional support technicians.

- Provide for the management of any funds collected in the Sustainable Forests Fund and provide a mechanism for utilizing such funds to finance increased silviculture.

- Provide technical and program advice to private woodlot owners through departmental extension programs.

4.4 Improve the Quality of Life in Nova Scotia

- Begin to implement a program to improve public safety by capping and/or filling abandoned mine openings on Crown land. Continue to provide information and advice on abandoned mines to private landowners.

- Amend the Wildlife Act to acknowledge heritage hunting and fishing, recognize the role of safety, clarify the definition of wildlife and make some other amendments to strengthen the legislation.

- Develop and implement, in conjunction with the federal government, cost-effective energy efficiency and alternative energy programs that help meet Canada's international commitments to reduce greenhouse gases. Reductions in greenhouse gasses will also result in lower toxic emissions, providing cleaner air and enhancing the quality of life for Nova Scotians.

- Maintain and operate Provincial Parks to a high standard and continue to support park and recreation programming and high quality customer service.

- Provide a high quality recreational and educational program at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park with a focus on educational opportunities.

- Ensure that emergency and operational communications requirements are met by working closely with the IWAN group to complete a seamless transition from the existing provincial radio system to the new Trunked Mobile Radio System.

- Support the Sustainable Communities Initiative by working with all levels of government and communities toward more holistic decision-making that meets immediate and mid-term needs without jeopardizing the future overall health and sustainability of the community. This includes assigning staff to participate on both SCI field teams as well as the coordinating committee.

4.5 Manage the Department's Financial, Physical, Human, and Information Resources Effectively and Efficiently

The Department will focus on core functions and will continue to improve the efficiency of its internal operations, and investigate and adopt new ways of doing business in order to provide taxpayers with good value for their money. The Department will:

- Focus efforts on establishing forest management standards, providing information and monitoring compliance, recognizing that industry can make its own decisions about the means to reach those standards. The department will maintain direct investment funding to the forest industry, and ensure it is used to increase the level of forest management and silviculture activities by the private sector.

- Identify and adopt opportunities where information technology can be used to reduce the cost of doing business or improve client service. This includes expanding the distribution of information by e-mail and on the Internet, and integrating information from various geographic information system databases within the department.

- Improve productivity and reduce the cost of operating the tree nursery.

- Identify and implement opportunities for efficiencies and improved service delivery through partnerships with, or purchases from, other departments or the private sector.

- Continue to develop and implement a comprehensive Occupational Health and Safety program to ensure workplaces meet or exceed regulatory requirements and provide a healthy and safe working environment for staff.

- Implement any staffing related changes in accordance with contractual agreements, taking into consideration the principles of fairness and equity towards staff. Staff training requirements will be identified and training provided where staff can be reassigned.

- Continue to facilitate efficient and effective reviews of mineral development projects through a coordinated "one-window" process, including the provision of scientific, technical and policy advice to other departments that are partners in the Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU will be revised to reflect the amendments made to the Mineral Resources Act so that changes in relationships between partners and shifts in responsibilities are fully recognized and implemented.

- Implement measures to facilitate more efficient and cost-effective park operations through adjustments to existing fee structure, implementation of new fees, and the provision of additional revenue-positive facilities and services. Improve market readiness and enhanced marketing and promotion in consultation with the Department of Tourism and Culture.

5.0 Budget Context

The following table provides budget information for each of the Department's twelve core businesses. The figures shown include recoveries so that the amounts provided reflect the total expenditures for each core business. Net program expenses will increase approximately 3.5% from 2000-01 to 2001-02.

Department of Natural Resources - Estimated Budget Expenditures by Core Business		
Core Business	2000-2001	2001-2002 *
	$ Millions	$Millions
Private Land Forest Management	$8.4	$8.7
Crown Land Resources Management	$6.7	$8.1
Forestry	$4.5	$4.2
Minerals and Energy	$3.8	$3.9
Parks and Recreation	$3.5	$3.5
Forest Protection	$4.2	$4.3
Enforcement	$2.8	$3.2
Wildlife	$3.1	$3.2
Land Services	$5.1	$5.1
Fleet Management	$2.9	$3.1
Integrated Mobile Radio System	$2.2	$2.0
Central Services	$7.7	$7.4
Total - Gross Current	$54.9	$56.7
Total - Net Program Expenses	$52.1	$53.9
* The split between core businesses is subject to further review and revised allocations.		

6.0 Outcomes and Outcome Measures

Attachment A contains outcomes, indicators, measures, targets, and strategies to attain the targets. Reporting on outcomes is one means of tracking progress in areas that are important to the Department. This reporting framework will continue to be refined as the Department develops new and improved measures.

7.0 Highlights from Human Resources

Human resource services are provided in the areas of recruitment, compensation, labour relations, training and development, occupational health and safety, and payroll and benefits administration. Within the area of human resources, the main priorities for 2001-2002 include the following:

- Provide corporate consultative advice and assistance to the Department with regard to its strategic initiatives, restructuring and re-building efforts, organizational design and labour relations issues.
- Provide guidance and support to Departmental Managers in Human Resource Planning, enhancing DNR's ability to meet goals and future challenges.
- Continue to support the Corporate Integrated Management Development initiative by coordinating the Succession Planning (primarily of the graduating MPMA students) and Performance Management processes within the Department. This includes providing ongoing consultative support to managers as well as analytical and planning support to the Department throughout the process. Career planning will be provided in conjunction with the initiative.
- Continue to provide quality, cost effective training and development opportunities and human resources programs customized to meet identified needs within the department.
- Continue the provision of efficient personnel, payroll and benefit administration services for all employees.
- Provide Disability Case Management consultative and support services leading to improved morale and productivity.
- Provide advice and assistance regarding Occupational Health and Safety Program changes which ensure compliance with related legislation and the provision of a safe and healthy workplace.
- Assist Managers in their Occupational Health and Safety Audit preparation by leading audit readiness exercises and follow-up in the sections which have not yet been completed.
- Coordinate Departmental activities in support of the Bargaining Unit Classification Review.
- Coordinate Departmental activities in support of the classification review for Excluded positions.

8.0 Highlights from Information Technology

Information technology services are provided in the areas of IT business solutions and infrastructure support, and advice and assistance to the Department. Within the area of information technology, the main priorities for 2001-2002 include the following:

- Provide operational support for business systems, desktops and networks. This includes providing telephone support through the RCSU Help Desk, fixing system faults, providing enhancements, and monitoring network and server data backups.
- Provide operational planning for IT systems. This covers the planning component for IT systems and includes hardware capacity planning, network connectivity planning, system component specification planning and implementation scheduling.

- Provide assistance with the on-going prioritization of divisional IT initiatives, based on the priorities identified in the Department's business plan. Provide IT resources to participate in those initiatives that have departmental approval and resources.

- Continue to participate in the inter-CSU project to provide regionally-based IT support among departments whose regional offices share a common location.

9.0 Highlights from Financial Services

Financial services are provided in the areas of including payment of accounts, management of revenues and accounts receivable, provision of financial data and analysis, and budget/forecast coordination. Within the area of financial management, the main priorities for 2001-2002 include:

- Implement and deliver the Provincial Tangible Capital Assets (TCA) program. This program will modify the manner in which government accounts for tangible capital assets and will provide meaningful costing information.

- Review existing financial policies and procedures to ensure that process improvements are made adding value and reducing bureaucratic "red tape".

- Ensure that the Corporate Financial Management System is used in a efficient and effective manner. This will include improving the reporting capability and financial information available to civil servants.

- Prepare and monitor estimates and forecasts for the Department. Assist the Department to meet fiscal targets by providing sound financial reporting advice and assistance.

~ end ~

Nova Scotia
Department of Natural Resources
BUSINESS PLAN
2001-2002

" Attachment A "

Posted April 3rd, 2001.

For further information contact:
Peter Woolaver, Planning Secretariat, NSDNR
pdwoolav@gov.ns.ca

NOVA SCOTIA
Natural Resources

Attachment A - Outcome Measures

Goal #1 Achieve Sound Natural Resources Stewardship				
Outcome	**Indicator**	**Measure**	**Target**	**Strategies to Achieve Target**
Sound Natural Resources Stewardship	Integrated Management of Natural Resources	Adoption of IRM strategic plans	2001	• Seek senior management and Ministerial approval.
		Complete the procedure to be used for the development of Long Range Management Plans (LRMP's) for Crown Land	2001	• Establish LRMP co-ordinators in each of the three regions. • Define the LRMP process. • Establish methods of involving the public in the LRMP process.
		Percentage of draft LRMP's completed	20% annually (100% by end of 2005)	• Devote resources to IRM teams, enhancing capacity in GIS and modelling, to facilitate the completion of LRMP's.
	Stewardship Agreements	Number of partners in public education and outreach on climate change	10 in 2001	• Work with companies, non-government organizations, and other governments to develop and fund public education projects.
		Percentage of NS measures in the National Action Plan and NS Climate Change Strategy implemented	56% in 2001 (5 of 9) 100% in 2002 (9 of 9)	• Secure approval of NS Climate Change Strategy. • Expand federal-provincial partnerships.
		Number of "Species at Risk" partnerships in place	5 in 2001	• Establish partnerships to enable protection or recovery of species at risk.
		Number of acres of wetland influenced by wetland stewardship agreements in place	Increase from previous year	• Work within the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture to establish wetland stewardship agreements.
		Number of Registered Buyers participating in Forest Stewardship Agreements	2001 - 12 2004 - 70	• DNR staff will promote the development of Sustainability Agreements with the forest industry.
		Number of provincial commitments made in the Whitehorse Mining Accord integrated into Mineral Policy and M&E Programming	Benchmark developed in 2001 in Action Plan	• Mineral Policy; develop a new 5-year Action Plan for Minerals 2002 - 2007

Goal #1 Achieve Sound Natural Resources Stewardship				
Outcome	**Indicator**	**Measure**	**Target**	**Strategies to Achieve Target**
Sound Natural Resources Stewardship	Resource Information for Decision Making	Number of records included or reviewed in the Significant Wildlife Species and Habitats Database Adoption of IRM strategic plans	Increase from previous year	• Establish a process to ensure the database can be easily updated as new information becomes available.
		Area of new or updated geological mapping completed	Increase from previous year	• Develop one and five year plans for geoscientific programming.
		Number of records in the mineral occurrences database	Increase from previous year	
		Number of records in the drillholes database	Increase from previous year	
		Number of geoscience maps, databases and publications	Increase from previous year	
		Number of provincial agencies, RDA's and municipalities that use geoscience information in planning strategies	Increase from previous year	• Promote the integration of geoscience information in land use and environmental planning.
	Reclamation Planning for Disturbed Areas on Crown Lands	Number of reclamation plans developed	2 - 2002	• Seek partnership agreements to develop, fund and implement reclamation projects.

Goal #1 Achieve Sound Natural Resources Stewardship				
Outcome	**Indicator**	**Measure**	**Target**	**Strategies to Achieve Target**
Sound Natural Resources Stewardship	Public Education and Understanding of Natural Resources Issues	Number of participants in Woodlot Management Home Study Program	100 new clients annually	• Develop, promote, and deliver Woodlot management modules and make them available for home study and via Internet access.
		Number of teachers and students receiving natural resources stewardship related training	4,000 annually at the Wildlife Park	• Provide effective wildlife education programs for school groups with the opportunity to see the animals which are part of the lesson.
		Number of teachers and students receiving natural resources stewardship related training	6,000 annually at the Musquodoboit Forestry Complex	• Provide teacher in-service and professional development workshops.
		Amount of geoscience information available to the public.	Increase from previous year	• Further development of the Branch website.
	Healthy Wildlife Habitat	Establish a process to manage the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Fund	2001	• Set up and facilitate a stakeholder Board of Directors to review applications and advise the Minister on the best use of funds.
		Update the Forest / Wildlife Habitat Guidelines	2001	• Update Guidelines based on consultation, scientific review and experience. • Provide training and demonstrations.

Goal #2 Conserve the Diversity of Nova Scotia's Natural Environment				
Outcome	**Indicator**	**Measure**	**Target**	**Strategies to Achieve Target**
Conservation of Ecosystem Function	Diverse Forest Structure	measure under development	Under development	• Undertake analysis of inventory data. • Carry out determination of appropriate age / species mix by eco-district.
	Wetland Environment	Area of the province by wetland type in urban / agricultural landscapes	Maintain at current level	• Maintain a GIS database with wetlands categorized by area and type. • Work closely with DOEL on mitigative action where required. • Restore lost wetlands.
	Healthy Forest Habitat	Implementation of Wildlife Habitat regulations under the Forests Act	2001	• Make presentation to Cabinet. • Enact, promote and enforce Regulations, including providing training and demonstrations.
	Commitment to Land Conservation	Area of parks meeting IUCN protection of natural areas criteria	Maintain or increase	• Prepare documentation for Designation of priority areas each year.
		Area of province designated under the Conservation Easement Act	Increase	• Identify private lands containing significant natural areas. • Encourage private landowners to manage lands through Conservation Easement Act.

		Percent of province's natural regions represented within protected areas system	Increase	• Work in partnership with the Department of Environment and Labour to:
				  • identify natural regions either currently not represented within protected areas system or inadequately represented; and
				  • identify opportunities for protection of under-represented natural regions, focussing on Crown lands and, secondly, on private lands.

	Mine Lands Reclamation	Percentage of active mine sites practising progressive reclamation	67% in 2002 (2 of 3)	• Promote progressive reclamation with mine operators.
		Complete development of Abandoned Mining Lands Reclamation Program	2005	• Work with stakeholders to develop program.
		Number of abandoned mine site projects started	1 - 2005	• Develop strategic partnerships and funding mechanisms to reclaim abandoned mine sites.

Goal #2 Conserve the Diversity of Nova Scotia's Natural Environment				
Outcome	**Indicator**	**Measure**	**Target**	**Strategies to Achieve Target**
Species Diversity	Endangered Species.	Percent of endangered species with recovery plans in place	100% within one year of listing	• Create Recovery Teams for each listed species and provide support in developing Recovery Plans.
		Percent of threatened species with recovery plans in place	100% within two years of listing	
		Percentage of mine development proposals and mine reclamation projects that address Endangered Species	100%	• DNR reviews all mine development Environment Assessment Reports and mine reclamation projects for Endangered Species consideration.
Species Diversity	Species Status	Number of species changing to "at risk" status	No species changing to "at risk" status after five year review	• Monitor status of all wild species by means of the "General Status of Wild Species". • Review species status at five year intervals. • Influence human activities on species which are vulnerable to human influence.
		Percentage of mine development proposals and mine reclamation projects that address Species Status	100%	• DNR reviews all mine development Environment Assessment Reports and mine reclamation projects for Species Status consideration.

Goal #3 Support Nova Scotia's Economy Through the Sustainable Development of Natural Resources				
Outcome	**Indicator**	**Measure**	**Target**	**Strategies to Achieve Target**
Effective Management of Resource Supply	Sustainable Forest Resources	Amount of silviculture investment on small private woodlots	$6.3 million (2001-02) $9 million (2002-03 and later)	• Work with the forest industry to assist them in achieving full compliance with requirements of the Forest Sustainability Regulations.
		Five year average timber harvest as a percent of the sustainable harvest	Less than 100%	• Continue to implement the Forests Act amendments and continue to monitor harvest levels.
	Sustainable Use of Harvested Wildlife Species	Review of hunting / trapping regulations	One review per year	• Monitor wildlife populations with potential for over or under harvest. • Consult with stakeholders. • Recommend regulatory amendments.
	Sustainable Energy Supply	Number of outside suppliers of information on energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy sources	3 in 2001	• Develop partnerships with outside education-based organizations and energy companies. • Provide printed and audio-visual material.
		Number of demonstrations of new green energy technologies / feasibility studies	3 in 2001	• Encourage inventory of NS wind regime. • Support "green power" purchasing and "green power" premium on utility bills.
	Effective Regulatory Regime	Enact the revised Mineral Resources Act and Regulations	2001	• Work with other departments to enact the legislation.
		Complete a proposal for revised regulatory approval of "small scale" mining projects	2002	• Monitor practices in other jurisdictions. • Consult with DOEL and stakeholders.
		Develop a business plan for enhanced services available through the Registry of Mineral and Petroleum Titles, including the integration of GIS and map staking in the Registry; automation of Registry records / file management systems; and electronic filing of applications and reports	2002	• Work with stakeholders to develop a business plan that will address requirements.
		A measure of a "streamlined regulatory process" for mineral development projects is under development	Under development	• Participate in federal - provincial regulatory committee.

Goal #3 Support Nova Scotia's Economy Through the Sustainable Development of Natural Resources				
Outcome	**Indicator**	**Measure**	**Target**	**Strategies to Achieve Target**
Awareness of Resource Development Opportunities	Resource Information Availability	measures under development	Under development	• under development
	Partnership Arrangements	Number of parks related partnership initiatives in place	Increase	• Identify partnership opportunities within the provincial park system. • Seek potential partners to develop and/or manage new parks. • Seek potential partners to upgrade facilities and services within existing provincial parks.
	Promotional Initiatives	Number of parks related promotional / marketing initiatives underway	Increase	• Identify and more closely define park user groups and target desired user groups with promotional / marketing information.. • Work closely with the Department of Tourism and Culture to enhance market readiness of parks and promotional / marketing capabilities.
		Requests for information on mineral development opportunities	Develop baseline data in 2001	• Participate in provincial and national fora. • Increase promotional information on website. • Liaise with provincial and national exploration and mining interests. • Promote development opportunities with Community Economic Development groups. • Provide market information on mineral commodities and products. • Provide timely access to geoscience information through contact with staff. • Provide expert technical resources to advise government and interested parties on exploration, production and value added processing and secondary manufacturing of mineral products.
		Number of responses and contacts for information on exploration, mineral production, value added and secondary processing of mineral products	Develop baseline data in 2001	

Goal #4 Improve the Quality of Life in Nova Scotia

Outcome	Indicator	Measure	Target	Strategies to Achieve Target
Recreational Opportunities	Availability of Recreational Land and Programs	Area of operational provincial parks	Increase	• If sites are closed, other cost effective sites will be developed or opened to the public in a natural state. • Promote use of geo-science information in planning for recreational land and activities. • Operate and maintain current parks system.
		Length of trails in parks and on Crown land	Increase	• Work with partners to develop additional trail opportunities. • Develop partnerships to facilitate development of additional trails.
		Area of Crown land managed explicitly for outdoor recreation activities	Increase	• Use IRM Strategic Plans and LRMPs to identify and manage certain Crown lands with outdoor recreational opportunities.
		Number of recreational events sponsored (Parks are for People)	100	• Actively look for new groups to sponsor events. • Work with various groups to sponsor events.
Public Safety	Hunter and Trapper Safety	Number of students successfully trained	1,350 annually	• Deliver hunter, bowhunter, and trapper education courses.
	Crown Land Improvements	Number of abandoned mine shafts identified on Crown land	Increase	• Maintain annual program to identify and classify abandoned mine shafts on Crown land.
		Number of abandoned mine shafts remediated	3 annually	• Maximize available funds through partnership programs.
	Geo-hazards Identification	Number of geo-hazards identified	Increase from previous year	• Compile and disseminate available information on geo-hazards to affected communities and interest groups. • Identify new geo-hazards as information becomes available.

Goal #4 Improve the Quality of Life in Nova Scotia				
Outcome	**Indicator**	**Measure**	**Target**	**Strategies to Achieve Target**
Appreciation of Natural Resources	Participation in Nature Related Activities	Number of visitors to Shubenacadie Wildlife Park	100,000 per year	• Provide a natural setting with appropriate enclosures for animals. • Provide educational messages to ensure people get a good understanding of NS wildlife.
		Number of visitors to provincial camping parks	Increase	• Upgrade facilities and services (market readiness). • Improve client services. • Work with the Department of Tourism and Culture to increase the promotion of provincial parks.
	Access to Opportunities for Appreciation	Number of Provincial Parks with Interpretative Displays	Increase	• Work with partners and branches of DNR to achieve targets. • Incorporate geo-science in interpretative displays.
		Number of requests from the general public for information about geology, mining, rock hounding and fossil collecting	Develop baseline data in 2001	• Respond to 100% of requests for information within two weeks. • Seek partnership with tourism industry groups to incorporate geoscientific information into geo-tourism and eco-tourism activities.

Goal #5 Manage the Department's Financial, Physical, Human and Information Resources Effectively and Efficiently				
Outcome	**Indicator**	**Measure**	**Target**	**Strategies to Achieve Target**
Effective Management of Financial Resources	Budget Expenditures	Department controllable expenditures as a percentage of approved fiscal targets	Less than 100%	• Continue to monitor and report expenditures relative to approved targets.
		Departmental forecast at the end of January as a percentage of final departmental fiscal year end total expenditures	Between 95% and 105%	• Raise awareness of the importance of accurate forecasts. • Provide assistance to staff preparing forecasts. • Monitor accuracy of forecasts.
Effective Management of Human Resources	Performance Management	Percentage of Civil Service staff receiving performance appraisals	100%	• Raise awareness of value of performance management. • Monitor completion of appraisals.
Effective Management of Information Resources	Public Access to Information	Per cent of FOIPOP applications met within 60 days	75%	• Monitor the length of time required to process FOIPOP applications. • Work to meet applications within specified time frame.